

CITY OF MIAMI BEACH

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COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor David Dermer and
Members of the City Commission
Date: May 5, 2004

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez
City Manager

Subject: **REPORT OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 29, 2004.**

A meeting of the Neighborhood / Community Affairs Committee was held on April 29, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. in the City Manager's Large Conference Room. Commissioners in attendance: Matti Herrera Bower, Saul Gross, and Luis Garcia. City staff in attendance: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager; Robert Parcher, City Clerk; Donald Papy, Chief Deputy City Attorney; Jean Olin, Assistant City Attorney; Raul Aguila, First Assistant City Attorney; Vivian Guzman, Neighborhood Services Director; Max Sklar, Cultural Affairs and Tourism Director; Gus Lopez, Procurement Director; Vince Andreano, Beach Patrol Captain; Kevin Smith, Parks and Recreation Director; Hank Oppenborn, Beach Patrol; Chester Escobar, Parking Assistant Director; Manuel Marquez Jr., Finance Department; Dennis Leyva, Economic Development; Ron Francis, City Clerk's Office. Others in attendance are listed in the attached sign-in sheet.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **DISCUSSION REGARDING AN ORDINANCE AMENDING MIAMI BEACH CITY CODE CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE III "AGENCIES, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES," SECTION 2-22(5) THEREOF ESTABLISHING TERM LIMITS OF BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS, BY PROVIDING THAT SAID TERM LIMITS SHOULD NOT INCLUDE TIME SERVED AS A RESULT OF HAVING FILLED A VACANCY; PROVIDING FOR REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Item deferred to the next Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee meeting.

2. **DISCUSSION REGARDING THE USE OF CHANNEL 20 TO BROADCAST PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Committee moved to cease the continuation of the playing of the Mayor's March 26, 2004 State of the City Address.

Item deferred to the next Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee meeting.

3. DISCUSSION REGARDING ADDITIONAL CRITERIA BE ADDED TO EXISTING CITY'S HUMAN RIGHTS ORDINANCE.

Item comprised of three sections discussed individually:

- a. **To expand the current domestic partner registry to include all Miami Beach residents, not just its employees and further to have the City Clerk's office carry out the responsibility of issuing to those who qualify a certificate acknowledging domestic partnership.**

Discussion included expanding the registry so as to not limit membership to residents but leave it open to anyone residing or visiting the City of Miami Beach and would honor domestic partnership registries from any other jurisdiction. In the event of conflicting rights between jurisdictions, the City Miami Beach ordinance will prevail. Additionally, the requirements for establishing a domestic partnership should be rephrased from requiring that the couple is not married. A possible wording would be the couple is married but the marriage is not recognized by the State of Florida.

The Committee moved to bring the item, once the wording has been finalized, to a meeting of the full Commission.

- b. **To include the transgender community in our anti-discrimination language, which is not currently defined in the City's Charter.**

Committee accepted the recommendation to amend the City's Human Rights Ordinance by adding a prohibition against discrimination on the basis of "Gender". Additionally the definition of "Gender" to be added would read as follows:

"Gender includes but is not limited to sex, pregnancy, child birth, or medical conditions related to pregnancy or child birth, gender-related self-identity, self-image, appearance, expression or behavior whether or not such gender-related characteristics differ from those associated with the individual's assigned sex at birth."

The Committee moved to bring this item to a meeting of the full Commission.

- c. **Request that the City's vendors and/or contractors honor the human rights ordinance and to incorporate this legislation for all who reside or do business within the City of Miami Beach.**

Discussion addressed the fact that the requirements is to apply to companies that currently offer spousal benefits. These companies would be required to offer the same benefits to domestic partners. This should be accomplished via an amendment to the Procurement Code.

The Committee moved to bring this item to the full Commission once the wording has been completed.

4. DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE EXISTING DEBARMENT AND LOBBYING ORDINANCES.

Item was withdrawn permanently at the request of Commissioner Smith.

5. DISCUSSION REGARDING ART IN PUBLIC PLACES FUNDING, MASTERPLAN, AND GUIDELINES.

Item was presented to the committee by Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager and Max Sklar, Arts and Cultural Affairs Director. The discussion surrounded the amending of the definition of "City Construction Projects" within the Art in Public Places Ordinance.

Committee voted to expand the definition to include renovations valued at or in excess of \$500,000.00 and moved to bring the item to the full Commission meeting scheduled for May 5, 2004.

6. DISCUSSION REGARDING POTENTIAL ENHANCEMENTS TO THE PINE TREE BARK PARK.

A verbal report of the community meeting was given. Since the residents were not receptive to the idea, the Committee moved to withdraw the item.

NEW BUSINESS

7. DISCUSSION REGARDING A BICYCLE TAXI BUSINESS PROPOSED BY EASY RIDERS.

Committee moved to have the item addressed by the Transportation and Parking Committee (TPC) at their next meeting and then bring item back to the next Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee meeting.

The following item was a late addition to the *OLD BUSINESS* section of the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

8. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE TRANSFER OF BEACH PATROL FROM THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Item presented by Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager. A reasonable understanding has been reached with Communication Workers of America (CWA Local 3178) that the City will go with the approach to merge the operations of the Beach Patrol to the Ocean Rescue Division of the Fire Department reporting to an Assistant Fire Chief.

Committee moved to accept this recommendation. No action is required of the City Commission to complete this transition.

Commissioner Garcia addressed his concerns regarding the organization of the division, however he will discuss further with Commission.

Attachments

JMG/RCM/VPG/rfm